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Prevention of armed conflict

Security Council
Seventy-first year

Letter dated 4 April 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon the instructions of my Government, I have the honour to enclose herewith the remarks of Serzh Sargsyan, President of Armenia, delivered on 4 April 2016 at the meeting with ambassadors of the participating States of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (see annex), in connection with the pre-planned and unprecedented provocation along the entire line of contact with Nagorno-Karabakh, undertaken by Azerbaijan since 2 April, in which it carried out massive military actions with the employment of their entire arsenal: armoured vehicles, heavy artillery and air force.

I kindly request that the present letter and its annex be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 34, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Zohrab **Mnatsakanyan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 4 April 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Opening remarks by Serzh Sargsyan, President of the Republic of Armenia, at the meeting with the ambassadors of the participating States of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe to provide them with information regarding the situation on the line of contact

4 April 2016, Yerevan

I appreciate your quick response to my invitation and thank you for being here. I am confident that all of you are informed about the situation on the Nagorno-Karabakh line of contact. The purpose of inviting the ambassadors of the participating States of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) is to provide you with first-hand information.

As you already know, over the night of 2 April 2016, at around 3 a.m., the Azeri side undertook a pre-planned and unprecedented provocation along the entire line of contact with Nagorno-Karabakh, carrying out massive military actions and employing the entire complex of their arsenal: armoured vehicles, heavy artillery and air force.

From the first hours of the hostilities, the adversary also targeted civilians. Schoolchildren were killed and wounded in the school yard; elderly people were viciously killed in their homes — all of them peaceful residents, including a 92-year-old woman. And it was carried out by the so-called sabotage and reconnaissance group because no regular unit of the Azeri armed forces entered any residential area. It is true that, right after this, the group was eliminated; however, this is the fact. Footage featuring this scene also appeared in the mass media yesterday. You can watch that footage and juxtapose it with the repeatedly uttered words of the leader of the neighbouring State on the protection of the rights of the people of Karabakh within "the island of tolerance — Azerbaijan".

Timely and professional actions of the Nagorno-Karabakh Defence Army allowed the entire situation to be brought under control.

Hostilities of this magnitude have not been registered since the establishment of the ceasefire in 1994. Provocative attacks of the Azeri side resumed the next morning and continue as we speak. Azerbaijan continues to target civilians, using multiple rocket launchers and mortars. After the so-called "unilateral ceasefire", the Azerbaijani armed forces continued their active military actions along the line of contact and shelled the residential areas of Nagorno-Karabakh.

The Republic of Armenia, as a party to the 1994 ceasefire agreement, will continue to fully implement its obligations to ensure the security of the people of Nagorno-Karabakh. Moreover, I have instructed the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to work with Nagorno-Karabakh to elaborate an agreement on mutual military assistance. And here I would like to state what I have declared on many occasions: should military actions continue and escalate to a large scale, the Republic of Armenia will recognize the independence of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Further escalation of the military actions may result in unpredictable and irreversible consequences, including an all-out war. It will obviously affect the security and stability not only of the South Caucasus but also of the entire European area.

Clearly, the cessation of hostilities and a peaceful resolution of the issue, in general, stem from the interests of the European States. OSCE, as a structure which plays a crucial role in preserving security in Europe, has a special role.

Regrettably, multiple warnings of the Armenian side that, sooner or later, Azerbaijan would become hostage to its own Armenophobic rhetoric and would plunge into a new military adventurism, and that, therefore, the aggressor must be contained by all possible means, fell short of desirable results. When Azerbaijan was bragging about the acquisition of arms and weaponry in profound quantities, the international community remained silent or almost silent; when statements about seeking a military solution to the problem were being made at the highest levels, the international community remained almost silent; when Azerbaijan was derailing the work of the OSCE Minsk Group and turning down the proposals to create confidence-building mechanisms, the international community again kept silent. And today, the international community is again silent as we see how Azerbaijan uses heavy artillery and bombards the peaceful population. By the way, literally minutes ago the Azeri armed forces for the first time used the heavy flamethrower system, "ognemyot" in Russian. The type is called TOS-1. Meanwhile, when the Nagorno-Karabakh Defence Army is taking countermeasures against the armed forces of Azerbaijan, which has manifold numerical superiority over Nagorno-Karabakh, they are urged to "show restraint."

I have three messages I would like you to convey to your capitals.

First, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan — not only this ministry but also obviously the speech of the President of Azerbaijan and other official sources have publicly stated, that for some reasons, which are perhaps clear to them but do not echo the logic of the so-far occurring processes in any way, Azerbaijan was the one that had initiated the offensive. According to their explanations, Azerbaijan attacked the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic to resolve problems that assumingly had to be addressed through the peaceful talks under the auspices of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs. We expect all the parties concerned with regional peace to clearly demand an explanation from Baku concerning the launch of the military operations.

In recent days, many heads of State and international organizations expressed their concern over the situation and made statements calling for the establishment of peace. They cannot be effective as long as they are not directed to a specific addressee, the one who provoked the offensive, and as long as they do not foresee consequences for disregarding them. This is exactly why I refer to the international community as being silent.

Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh are in favour of hostilities being ceased and the 1994 ceasefire regime being fully respected, with all the parties returning to their initial positions and barracks as of 1 April 2016. To preserve the ceasefire, OSCE needs to come up with stabilizing measures, which, under these conditions, should primarily include the urgent introduction of the ceasefire violations investigation mechanism and a considerable increase in the monitoring capacities of

the personal representative to the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office. It is also necessary to increase the number of field assistants to the personal representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office in the conflict zone so that they can record the violations.

Second, I have repeatedly stated that, to settle any conflict, especially when it is a conflict concerning the destiny of peoples fighting for their right to self-determination, it is necessary to address the cause of the conflict, and only after that to proceed to other matters stemming from that cause.

The Armenian side has never declined reasonable concessions to resolve the conflict. The OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs and the ambassadors of those countries who are present here are well aware of this. But talking about them is meaningful only when the root cause of the conflict is solved and the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic is freed from the threat of being recolonized. No one can force a people to live within a State that does not reflect the aspirations and values of that people.

Third, one of the recent manifestations of the cynical behaviour of Azerbaijan was the statement of the Azerbaijani Ministry of Defence, according to which Azerbaijan unilaterally suspended the "counteroffensive" against the "enemy", owing to the humanitarian concerns and started implementing the programme of fortifying the protection of the "liberated" territories. I can assure you that Azerbaijan has not liberated any territory. At this moment, along the whole line of contact, there is only a tiny segment in the south and another tiny segment in the north, which hopefully will no longer exist by the end of this meeting. This means that Azerbaijan has made an advance of merely 200-300 metres. For every metre they have lost more than one person. It is obvious that, by this, Azerbaijan is again misleading the international community and trying to create preconditions to disguise both the hostilities it has unleashed and the further continuation thereof.

An alleged "unilateral ceasefire" is out of question, since the tripartite agreements on the ceasefire from 1994 and on the strengthening of the ceasefire regime from 1995 without time limits, signed by Azerbaijan, are in force and Azerbaijan must adhere to the letter and spirit of those documents as an international obligation and not as a gesture of goodwill. By the way, I believe that the mediators of the ceasefire have an important role to play. I think that they are also the guarantors of the preservation of the ceasefire regime. Nagorno-Karabakh is a party to those documents and Azerbaijan must start to speak directly with the authorities of Karabakh whether they like them or not. Moreover, I believe that every incident of violation of the ceasefire must be thoroughly examined and evaluated since that is the guarantee and motivation of an effective negotiation process.

As an OSCE participating State, Armenia finds it necessary to call upon all OSCE participating States to be principled in their positions. If there is a will and desire to fix the situation, effective measures have to be implemented to that end and respect of the 1994 ceasefire regime must be enforced upon Azerbaijan.

Finally, one of the OSCE participating States, Turkey, which often recalls its membership in the Minsk Group, is acting from a position of inciting a great war in the region and is explicitly encouraging the adventuristic policy of the Azerbaijani leadership. Azerbaijan is bragging about its alleged victory and Turkey congratulates it on that occasion, while the international community condemns the use of force in Nagorno-Karabakh, although only in words. Turkey is the only

country to provide unwavering support for Azerbaijani adventurism. The statements made by Ankara before and after this situation, through which this country seems to compete with Azerbaijan with its anti-Armenian stance, can form a new hotbed of tension in the region, something of which Turkey has experience in the Near East. All those who wished to see Turkey among the mediators now understand that the country, having adopted the approach of the so-called "blood-kinship security", should be completely kept away from the Karabakh conflict resolution process.

To conclude, I would like to once again thank you for being here and express my hope that my messages and concerns will be heard in your capitals for the sake of pan-European peace and security.

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General Assembly
Security Council

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11 April 2016

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General Assembly
Seventieth session
Agenda item 120
Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly

Security Council
Seventy-first year

Identical letters dated 4 April 2016 from the Permanent Representative of New Zealand to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit a letter from the Prime Minister of New Zealand, John Key, addressed to you, advising that the Government of New Zealand nominates Helen Clark, former Prime Minister of New Zealand and Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, for the position of Secretary-General of the United Nations (see annex).

The Permanent Mission of New Zealand to the United Nations kindly asks that you circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 120, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Gerard **van Bohemen**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the identical letters dated 4 April 2016 from the Permanent Representative of New Zealand to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

Identical letters dated 4 April 2016 from the Prime Minister of New Zealand addressed to the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

For the past seventy years, the United Nations has been at the heart of our efforts to build a better world.

Today, the United Nations and the world are facing serious challenges. That is why we need a pragmatic and effective United Nations leader. It is time to elect the best person for the role of Secretary-General of the United Nations.

I am therefore honoured to nominate New Zealander Helen Clark.

Helen Clark is a stateswoman of international stature: she has a proved lifelong commitment to the ideals of the Charter of the United Nations and deep experience in and support for the United Nations as an institution.

Helen Clark has the right mix of political, diplomatic, managerial and modern communication skills which are required for this role:

- One of New Zealand's longest-serving Prime Ministers, Helen Clark was elected for three consecutive terms, from 1999 to 2008. She led the country for nine years and was at the forefront of New Zealand's constructive, fair and independent foreign policy.
- Since 2009, Helen Clark has served in the third-highest position within the United Nations, leading the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), coordinating the development activities of the United Nations system and taking the hard decisions necessary for making the United Nations more effective.

As a New Zealander, Helen Clark is well placed to bridge divisions and get results. I invite you to find out more about Ms. Clark at www.mfat.govt.nz/helen. Her biography is attached (see enclosure).

Helen Clark offers her total dedication to building a stronger United Nations. The Government of New Zealand presents Ms. Clark as the best candidate for this job.

(*Signed*) John Key
Prime Minister

Enclosure

Biography of Helen Clark

Helen Clark has served as Prime Minister of New Zealand and Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Her support for putting into practice the ideals of the Charter of the United Nations is the constant in a long and distinguished career.

Helen grew up on a farm in the Waikato, a region with a strong iwi (indigenous tribe), in New Zealand's North Island. Her father was a farmer and her mother a teacher, and they instilled in Helen a commitment to a close relationship with her family, strong values and a strong work ethic. As the eldest of four girls, Helen helped on the farm, where there were never girls' jobs or boys' jobs, just work to do.

As a student at the University of Auckland, she proved herself a top intellect, achieving a Master of Arts in political studies with first-class honours. Helen joined the movements for social justice sweeping New Zealand and the world, including the anti-apartheid movement. Nelson Mandela remains a personal hero. It was during her time at the University of Auckland that Helen met and married Peter Davis (now Professor Davis).

In 1981, at the age of 31 and after eight years as an academic, Helen was elected a member of the Parliament of New Zealand, serving the people of Mount Albert, a multi-ethnic inner-city suburb of Auckland. Early on in her parliamentary career, Helen served as Chair of the Foreign Affairs, Trade and Defence Select Committee and the Disarmament Committee. In the period from 1987 to 1990, Helen held senior government positions, as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Health, Housing, Labour and Conservation.

For nine years, through three successive terms extending over the period from 1999 to 2008, Helen served as Prime Minister of New Zealand, running a diverse country in the Pacific. She was at the forefront of New Zealand's constructive, fair and independent foreign policy. Helen oversaw the negotiation of New Zealand's bilateral Free Trade Agreement with China, which was China's first such agreement with a member nation of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. She authorized major contributions to conflict resolution in Timor-Leste, Bougainville and Solomon Islands, as well as in Afghanistan in the aftermath of 11 September 2001.

Helen has always been a champion of diversity and of the empowerment of women. She was the first woman to be elected Prime Minister and her Cabinet was inclusive of women and Maori (the indigenous people of New Zealand). She oversaw major progress in the reconciliation process with Maori (making up 15 per cent of the population) as well as apologies to Chinese New Zealanders and Samoa for historical state actions. Her government prioritized the retention of New Zealand's indigenous Maori language, and on her watch, New Zealand was among the first countries in the world to adopt sign language as an official language. Her government also prioritized and succeeded in achieving high levels of employment based on inclusive economic growth.

In 2009, Helen relinquished her seat in the New Zealand Parliament when she was appointed Administrator of UNDP. She is also the Chair of the United Nations Development Group, a committee comprising the heads of all United Nations entities working on development issues. She has taken the hard decisions necessary to make UNDP more effective, and was reappointed unanimously by the General Assembly in 2013. Under Helen's leadership, UNDP topped the Global Campaign for Aid Transparency 2014 index of major worldwide aid institutions.